


A FINE NIGHT OF FINE ART

→ BY EMILY DOBBY PHOTOS BY ARNOLD LIM

NEW UNION CLUB EVENT CELEBRATES ALL THINGS LOCAL



↑ Robert Coulter, chair of the Union Club's Community Outreach Committee, and Janyce Ronson, director of advancement at The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

VICTORIA'S HISTORIC UNION CLUB is joining with local art galleries to present a night of food, drink, music and art — all in support of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

Taking place October 17, and the first event of its kind in Victoria, Art + Fare will “transform the Union Club into a magnificent art gallery” to celebrate all things local, including art exhibits, pop-up lectures, historical tours of the Union Club, a tapas-style menu inspired by Union Club chefs and music played by local musicians.

Tickets are \$125 each (patron tickets are available for \$1,500) and available though the AGGV website.

Victoria galleries exhibiting the work of local artists include Madrona, Winchester, Alcheringa, Art Atelier 546, Mercurio, and the Sales and Rental Department of the AGGV. Alison Ross of Kilshaw's Auctioneers Ltd. will deliver pop-up lectures on investing in art.

“Given its historic association with Victoria's artistic community, the Union Club is proud to organize and host Art + Fare in support of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria,” said Robert Coulter, chair of the Union Club's Community Outreach Committee. “We look forward to welcoming Victoria's art enthusiasts in their dancing shoes and finest cocktail attire for an outstanding evening to remember.”

The idea for the event came to Coulter one day last fall. As a boy, he recalls, he often visited the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and met local artists. He remembers spending entire days at the gallery completely galvanized by his surroundings.

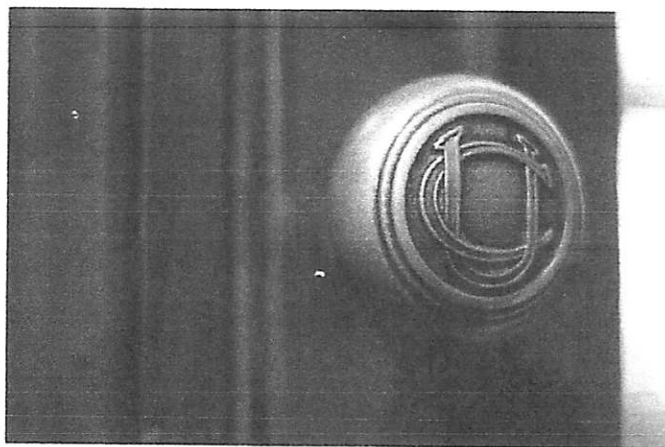
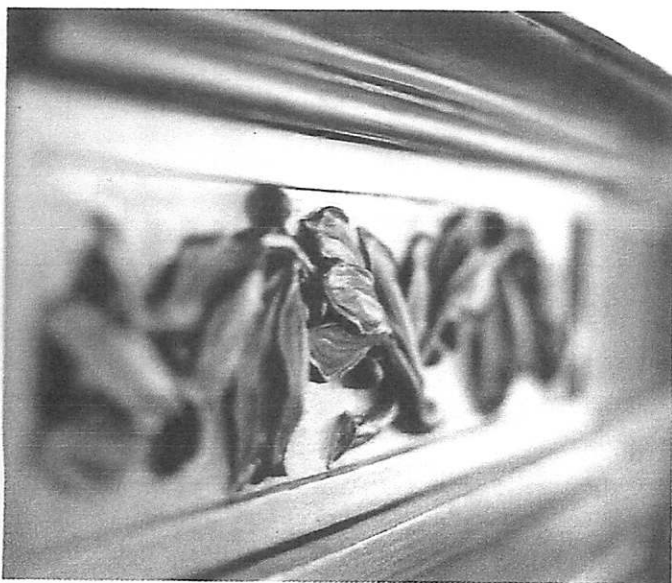
Since returning to Victoria from a lengthy stint in Ottawa, he regularly attends openings, exhibits and auctions and is an avid collector of art.

This event is a “labour of love” for Coulter and his committee. He is passionate about art, the gallery that inspired him as a boy, and celebrating the flourishing art community in Victoria.

The Union Club's connection to the arts runs throughout its history, according to Martin Segger, who heads the art committee at the UC.

Founding Club members included circuit court judges, mining engineers, land surveyors and military officers. Many sketched

↓ Details in the wood at the historic Union Club in Victoria — the location for October's Art + Fare event.



↑ Decorative door knob at the Union Club.

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the landscapes they travelled through, and documented and collected plant specimens. Others, such as Harold Motimer Lamb, were pioneer photographers.

Club member architects William Ridgeway Wilson, Francis Mawson Rattenbury and Samuel Maclure — along with collectors and connoisseurs like member John Shallcross — helped reinterpret the taste and ideology of the English and American Arts and Crafts movement in Victoria. They were active in founding the Arts and Crafts Institute for the education of artists, and Arts and Crafts Society chapters to organize local exhibitions. These helped establish the careers of artists such as Emily Carr and Jack Shadbolt.

A number of local galleries have been invited to showcase their artists at the Union Club over the past few years, and their involvement in Art + Fare is an extension of this relationship. Every gallery represents a unique stable of artists and offers every art lover a distinctive experience.

Janyce Ronson, director of advancement at The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, says she is thrilled to collaborate with the Union Club for this event.

“We are excited to partner with the Union Club on this evening of art appreciation and celebration. Art + Fare will transform the Union Club into a magnificent art gallery.”

Funds raised through ticket sales will allow the gallery to continue to exhibit artwork by contemporary artists, she added.

“Some of Canada's most influential artists have spent and do spend time on the west coast and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is home to many of their works.” ①